IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method operable on a computer for responding to a barter order, ~~the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

receiving <u>from a market maker</u> a rule including at least one condition for automatically ~~responding to the barter order~~ <u>generating a contra order</u>;

<u>receiving from a trader a barter order request to identify a contra barter order that includes a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter;</u>

~~comparing~~ <u>matching</u> on the computer the barter order <u>request</u> to the at least one condition comprising the rule; and

automatically responding to the barter order <u>request</u> in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule<u>, if the at least one condition is satisfied, including generating a contra barter order that includes the contra order.</u>

2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

at least one of the first security or the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order <u>request</u> further including an effective time range.

3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the at least one condition includes at least one variable selected from the group of variables including: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship of the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein each of the conditions further includes a mathematical operator and a value.

5.   (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

~~each of the rules~~ the rule further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range

within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative; and

if the rule is operative and if the at least one condition of the rule is satisfied, then further

comprising the steps of :

if the barter offer request is a limit order, performing one of the steps of

trading the first and second securities, and

posting the barter ~~offer~~ order request for consideration for execution;

if the barter ~~offer~~ order request is a market order, trading the first and second securities;

and

if a contra barter ~~offer~~ order is accepted, trading the first and second securities.

6.   (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the step of

automatically responding includes prompting [[the]] an operator to provide a manual response.

7.   (currently amended) A system for responding to a ~~barter~~ financial order, the system

comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to the processor and storing [[the]] a barter order request

from a trader including a first security to be sold in [[the]] a barter and a second security to be

purchased in the barter;

said memory further storing a rule received from a market maker including at least one

condition for automatically ~~responding to the barter order~~ generating a contra order;

the processor operative with control instructions stored in the memory to perform the steps of

~~comparing~~ matching on the computer the barter order request to the at least one condition

comprising the rule; and

automatically responding to the barter order request in accordance with the at least one

condition of the rule, if the rule is satisfied, including generating a contra barter order that

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<u>includes the contra order.</u>

8.   (currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein:

at least one of the first security or the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order <u>request</u> further including an effective time range.

9.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein the at least one condition includes at least one variable selected from the group of variables including: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship of the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

10.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 9 wherein each of the conditions further includes a mathematical operator and a value.

11.   (currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein ~~each of the rules~~ <u>the</u> <u>rule</u> further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative; and

if the rule is operative and if the at least one condition of the rule is satisfied, further comprising the steps of :

if the barter ~~offer~~ <u>order request</u> is a limit order, performing one of the steps of

trading the first and second securities, and

posting the barter ~~offer~~ <u>order request</u> for consideration for execution;

if the barter ~~offer~~ <u>order request</u> is a market order, trading the first and second securities; and

if a contra barter ~~offer~~ <u>order</u> is accepted, trading the first and second securities.

12.   (currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein the step of automatically responding includes prompting [[the]] an operator to provide a manual response.

13.   (original) A method for responding to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a market maker a rule for automatically responding to the barter order generating a contra order;

receiving from a trader a barter order request to identify a contra barter order that includes a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter;

comparing matching the barter order request to the at least one condition comprising the rule; and

automatically responding to the barter order request in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule, if the at least one condition is satisfied, including generating a contra barter order that includes the contra order.

14.   (currently amended) A system for responding to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the system comprising:

means for receiving from a market maker a rule including at least one condition for automatically responding to the barter order generating a contra order;

receiving from a trader a barter order request that includes a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter to identify a contra barter order;

means for comparing matching the barter order request to the at least one condition comprising the rule; and

means for automatically responding to the barter order in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule, if the at least one condition is satisfied, including generating a contra barter order that includes the contra order.

15. (currently amended) A method operable on a computer for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method comprising the steps of:

storing on said computer a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;

receiving through a graphical user interface input from a [[user]] _market maker_ selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition; [[and]]

responsive to the input, selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically <u>generating a contra order for</u> responding to the barter order<u>; and</u>

<u>automatically generating, if the at least one condition is satisfied, responsive to the barter order, a contra barter order including the contra order.</u>

16. (original) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein:

at least one of the first security and the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order further including an effective time range.

17. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the input from the ~~user~~ _market maker_ includes selecting at least one variable from the plurality of variables, at least one operator from the plurality of operators and at least one constraint to form the at least one condition.

18. (original) A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the plurality of variables includes: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship between the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

19. (original) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the rule further includes at least

one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative.

20.   (currently amended) A system for establishing rules to respond to barter orders, comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to said processor and storing a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter;

the memory further storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators, the memory further storing instructions operable with the processor to cause the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving through a graphical user interface input from a [[user]] market maker;

responsive to the input, selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition; [[and]]

responsive to the input, selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically generating a contra order for responding to the barter order; and

generating, if the at least one condition is satisfied, responsive to the barter order, a contra barter order based upon the contra order.

21.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein:

at least one of the first security and the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order further including an time date range.

22.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein the selecting step includes selecting at least one variable from the plurality of variables, at least one operator from the plurality of operators and at least one constraint to form the at least one condition.

23.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 22 wherein the plurality of variables

includes: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship between the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

24.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein the rule further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative.

25.   (currently amended) A method for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;

receiving input from a [[user]] market maker;

responsive to the input, selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition; [[and]]

responsive to the input, selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically generating a contra order for responding to the barter order; and

generating, if the at least one condition is satisfied, responsive to the barter order, a contra barter order based upon the contra order.

26.   (currently amended) A system for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;

means for receiving input from a [[user]] market maker;

means, responsive to the input, for selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition; [[and]]

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means, responsive to the input, for selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for generating a contra order for responding to the barter order; and

means for generating, if the at least one condition is satisfied, responsive to the barter order, a contra barter order based upon the contra order.

27 – 135 (cancelled)

136.   (new) The method of claim 1 or 13 wherein the contra barter order includes the first security and the second security.

137.   (new) The method of claim 1 or 13 wherein the contra barter order is an implied order including at least a first barter order and one of the group comprising a second barter order and a single-sided order.

138.   (new) The system of claim 7 or 14 wherein the contra barter order includes the first security and the second security.

139.   (new) The system of claim 7 or 14 wherein the contra barter order is an implied order including at least a first barter order and one of the group comprising a second barter order and a single-sided order.